

I. Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims includes all pending claims. Those being currently amended (relative to their immediate prior version), are denoted by the notation "(currently amended)" and newly added text therein is underlined, while any deleted text is ~~struck through~~. The notation "(original)" refers to claims that were submitted with the preliminary amendment filed herein, and remain in their as-filed condition.

Claim 108 (original): A method for making a hockey stick blade configured to be attached to a hockey stick shaft comprising:

providing a plurality of foam inner core elements;

wrapping two or more of the inner core elements with an adhesive tape comprising one or more plies of continuous fibers imbedded in a tacky resin matrix to form tubular structures;

employing the adhesive properties of the tape to secure the tubular structures to one another to form a hockey stick blade pre-form structure;

placing the hockey stick blade pre-form structure into a mold having the desired exterior shape of a hockey stick blade;

curing the pre-form structure in the mold for a selected period of time and at a selected temperature to obtain a cured blade structure; and

removing the cured blade structure from the mold.

Claim 109 (original): The method of claim 108, wherein the adhesive tape comprises uni-directional carbon fiber tape pre-impregnated with epoxy.

Claim 110 (original): The method of claim 108, wherein the adhesive tape comprises uni-directional glass fiber tape pre-impregnated with epoxy.

Claim 111 (original): The method of claim 108, wherein the adhesive tape comprises uni-directional aramid fiber tape pre-impregnated with epoxy.

Claim 112 (original): A method for making a hockey stick blade configured to be attached to a hockey stick shaft comprising:

providing a plurality of inner core elements;

wrapping the inner core elements with an adhesive tape comprising continuous fibers pre-impregnated with a resin matrix, to form a plurality of substructures of the blade;

employing the adhesive properties of the tape to secure the substructures to one another to form a hockey stick blade pre-form structure;

placing the hockey stick blade pre-form structure into a mold configured to impart the desired exterior shape of a hockey stick blade;

curing the blade pre-form structure in the mold for a selected period of time and at a selected temperature to cure the blade structure; and

removing the cured blade structure from the mold.

Claim 113 (original): The method of claim 112, wherein the adhesive tape comprises uni-directional carbon fibers pre-impregnated with epoxy.

Claim 114 (original): The method of claim 112, wherein the adhesive tape comprises uni-directional glass fibers pre-impregnated with epoxy.

Claim 115 (original): The method of claim 113, wherein the adhesive tape comprises uni-directional aramid fibers pre-impregnated with epoxy.

Claim 116 (original): A method for making a hockey stick having a blade configured to be attached to a hockey stick shaft comprising:

providing a plurality of inner core elements;

wrapping one or more of the inner core elements, with an adhesive tape comprising continuous fibers pre-impregnated with a resin matrix, to form blade substructures;

forming a hockey stick blade pre-form structure by employing the adhesive properties of the tape to assist in securing the blade substructures to one another;

placing the hockey stick blade pre-form structure into a mold configured to impart the desired exterior shape of a hockey stick blade;

curing the pre-form structure in the mold for a selected period of time and at a selected temperature to cure the blade structure; and

removing the cured blade structure from the mold.

Claim 117 (original): The method of claim 116, wherein the adhesive tape comprises one or more layers uni-directional carbon fibers pre-impregnated with epoxy.

Claim 118 (original): The method of claim 116, wherein the adhesive tape comprises uni-directional glass fiber tape pre-impregnated with epoxy.

Claim 119 (original): The method of claim 116, wherein the adhesive tape comprises uni-directional aramid fiber tape pre-impregnated with epoxy.

Claim 120 (original): The method of claim 116, wherein the cured blade extends from a tip section to a heel section that is adapted to being received within an open ended slot formed within the shaft and wherein the heel region of the blade is recessed at its heel region relative to adjacent portions of blade.

Claim 121 (currently amended): The hockey stick blade produced by the method of claim 108.

Claim 122 (currently amended): The hockey stick blade produced by the method of claim 109.

Claim 123 (currently amended): The hockey stick blade produced by the method of claim 110.

Claim 124 (currently amended): The hockey stick blade produced by the method of claim 111.

Claim 125 (currently amended): The hockey stick blade produced by the method of claim 112.

Claim 126 (currently amended): The hockey stick blade produced by the method of claim 113.

Claim 127 (currently amended): The hockey stick blade produced by the method of claim 114.

Claim 128 (currently amended): The hockey stick blade produced by the method of claim 115.

Claim 129 (currently amended): The hockey stick produced by the method of claim 116.

Claim 130 (currently amended): The hockey stick produced by the method of claim 117.

Claim 131 (currently amended): The hockey stick produced by the method of claim 118.

Claim 132 (currently amended): The hockey stick produced by the method of claim 119.

Claim 133 (currently amended): The hockey stick produced by the method of claim 120.

[end of claims]